

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the above application as follows:

In the Claims

Please substitute the following amended claims (1, 7, and 13) for the pending claim with the same number. (A "marked" copy of these amendments is attached hereto)

Claim 1. (currently amended) A mark forming apparatus comprising:

 a guide needle for forming a mark;

 a positioning mechanism for positioning said guide needle above a fault location of a semiconductor device;

 a solution supply device independent from said guide needle, for supplying a solution containing a coloring agent and a volatile solvent above to the fault location from outside of the guide needle and toward the tip of said guide needle until said solution touches a the tip of said guide needle; and

 a heating unit for evaporating the volatile solvent to form a mark consisting of the coloring agent surrounding the fault location.

Claims 2-6 (original)

Claim 7. (currently amended) A mark forming method comprising the steps of:

 positioning a guide needle for forming a mark above a fault location of a semiconductor device;

 supplying a solution containing a coloring agent and a volatile solvent above the fault location from outside of said guide needle toward the tip of said guide needle with from a means independent from said guide needle, ~~to the fault location~~ until said solution touches a the tip of the guide needle; and

 evaporating the volatile solvent to form a mark consisting of the coloring agent surrounding the fault location.

Claims 8 – 12 (original)